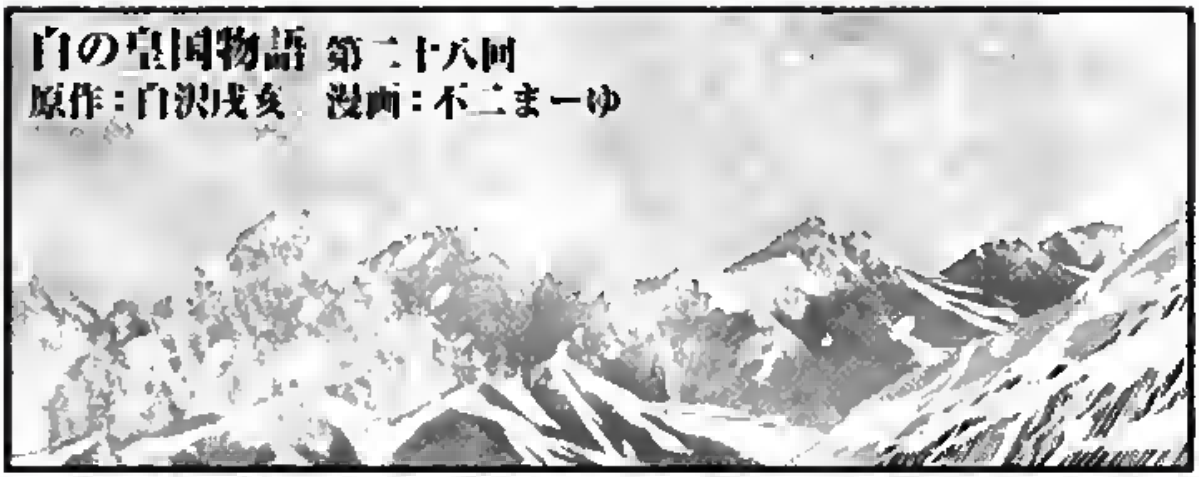
白の皇国物語 第二十六回

原作：白沢戎亥　漫画：不二まーゆ

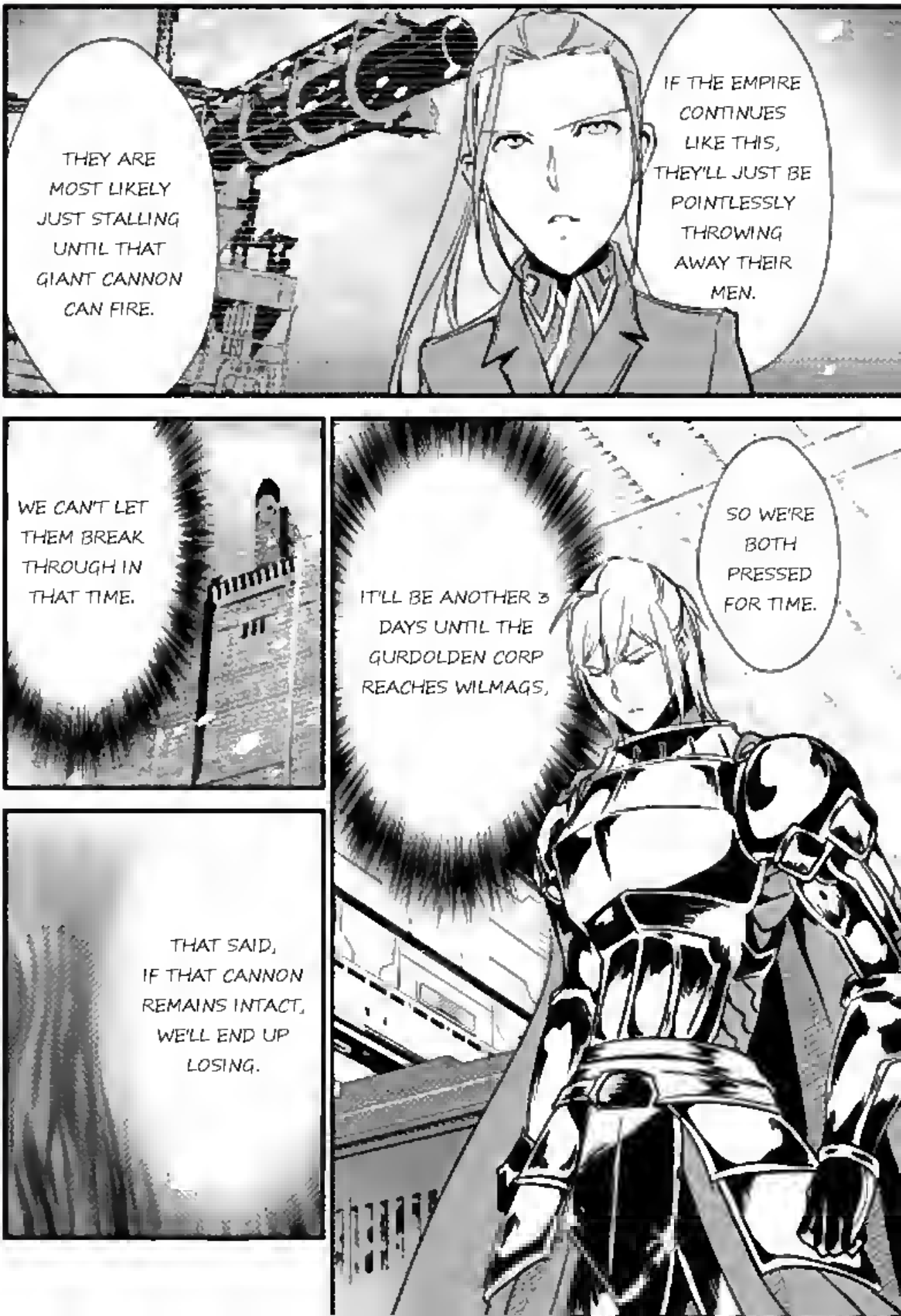


IT'S A REALLY TOUGH SITUATION.
I'VE LEFT ROUGHLY 40,000 ARTILLERY AND AUTOMATA WITH HIS HIGHNESS,
BUT THE EMPIRE'S STRENGTH TOTALS 370,000.
THEY'RE OUTNUM-BERED BY ABOUT 9 TO 1
AND THERE'S NO TELLING WHEN THAT GIANT CANNON WILL FIRE EITHER...

FOLLOW ME.
WE'LL BE MOVING ALONG THE SHORTEST ROUTE.
WE'RE COUNTING YOU. THE KINGDOM'S FUTURE IS ON THE LINE.
AS IS OUR FUTURE.

HIS HIGHNESS HAS ARRIVED!

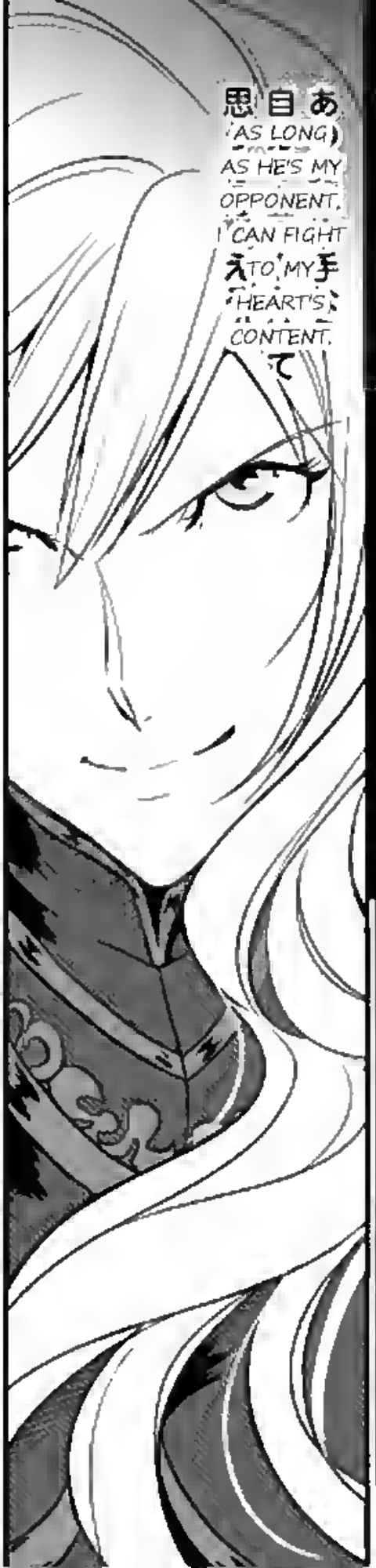
RESUME YOUR DUTIES.
HERE IT IS.
YES,
WHAT'S THE EMPIRE DOING?
HOW HAVE THE DEFENSIVE FORCES BEEN DEPLOYED?
AS USUAL, THEY ARE FORMING UP IN FRONT OF THE FORTRESS AND ATTACKING IN WAVES.
WE HAVE DEPLOYED 3 BRIGADES, INCLUDING THE 2067TH, BUT THEY LACK ANY RESERVES.


THEY ARE MOST LIKELY JUST STALLING UNTIL THAT GIANT CANNON CAN FIRE.
IF THE EMPIRE CONTINUES LIKE THIS, THEY'LL JUST BE POINTLESSLY THROWING AWAY THEIR MEN.
WE CAN'T LET THEM BREAK THROUGH IN THAT TIME.
IT'LL BE ANOTHER 3 DAYS UNTIL THE GURDOLDEN CORP REACHES WILMAGS,
SO WE'RE BOTH PRESSED FOR TIME.
THAT SAID, IF THAT CANNON REMAINS INTACT, WE'LL END UP LOSING.

A WISE DECISION, YOUR HIGHNESS.
I'D LIKE TO GO ENCOURAGE THE TROOPS.
UNDER-STOOD.
SORRY FOR ALL THE TROUBLE.
THAT PRINCESS WAS SIMPLY BORN TO FIGHT.
GLORIE DEL ALMADA,
CONTINUE MAINTAINING THE DEFENSIVE LINE AS YOU HAVE!

こんな戦わずして自分の負けあきらめ
IT'S JUST MY LUCK TO HAVE ENDED UP WITH HER AS MY OPPONENT...
BUT I HAVE NO OPTION HERE OTHER THAN USING ALL I HAVE TO DO SOMETHING.
SHE'LL CONCENTRATE ALL HER POWER AND FIGHT HER WAY STRAIGHT TO ME.
HAS ANYTHING HAPPENED ON THE KINGDOM'S SIDE?
NO.

SOME-
THING'S NOT
RIGHT...
THE INTRUDER IN THE AIRSPACE OVER WILMAGS WAS DEFINITELY ONE OF THE KINGDOM'S SCOUTS.
WHY IS LECTIVAL DOING NOTHING?
BUT WE'VE YET TO NOTICE ANY MOVEMENTS ON THEIR SIDE.
REMAIN VIGILANT.
YET IT'S EERILY QUIET.
THEY SHOULD KNOW ABOUT THUNDER NOW.
IT'LL BE BAD FOR US IF THIS CONFLICT DRAGS ON.
UNDER-
STOOD!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AS LONG AS HE'S MY OPPONENT, I CAN FIGHT TO MY HEART'S CONTENT.
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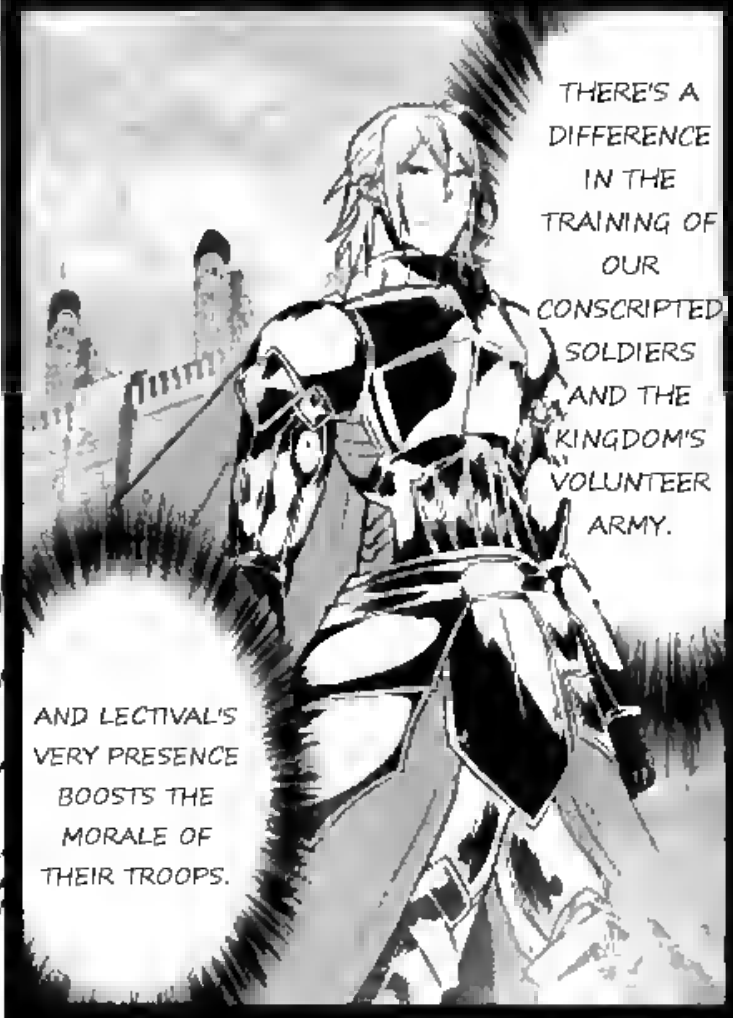
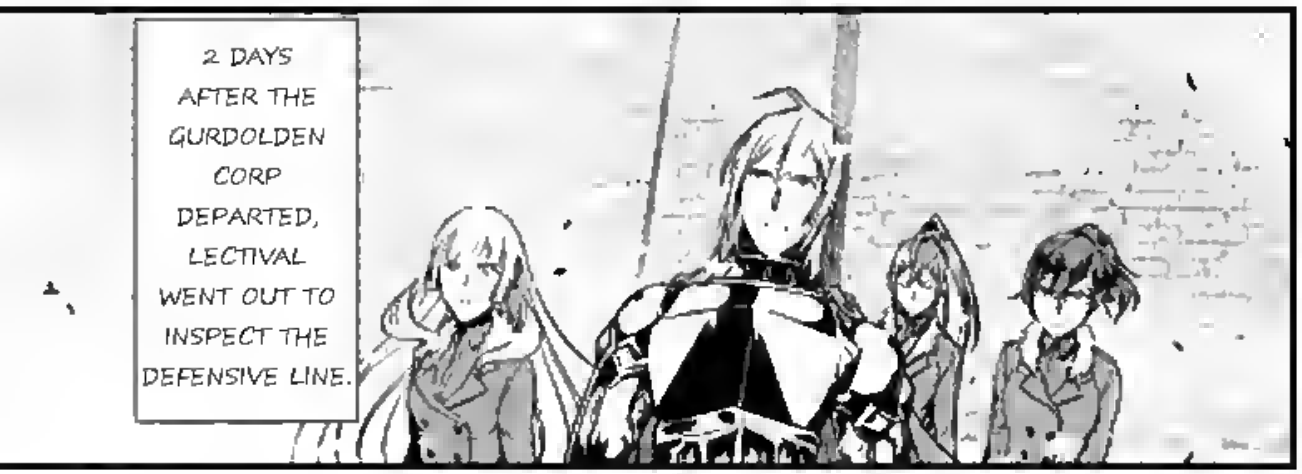
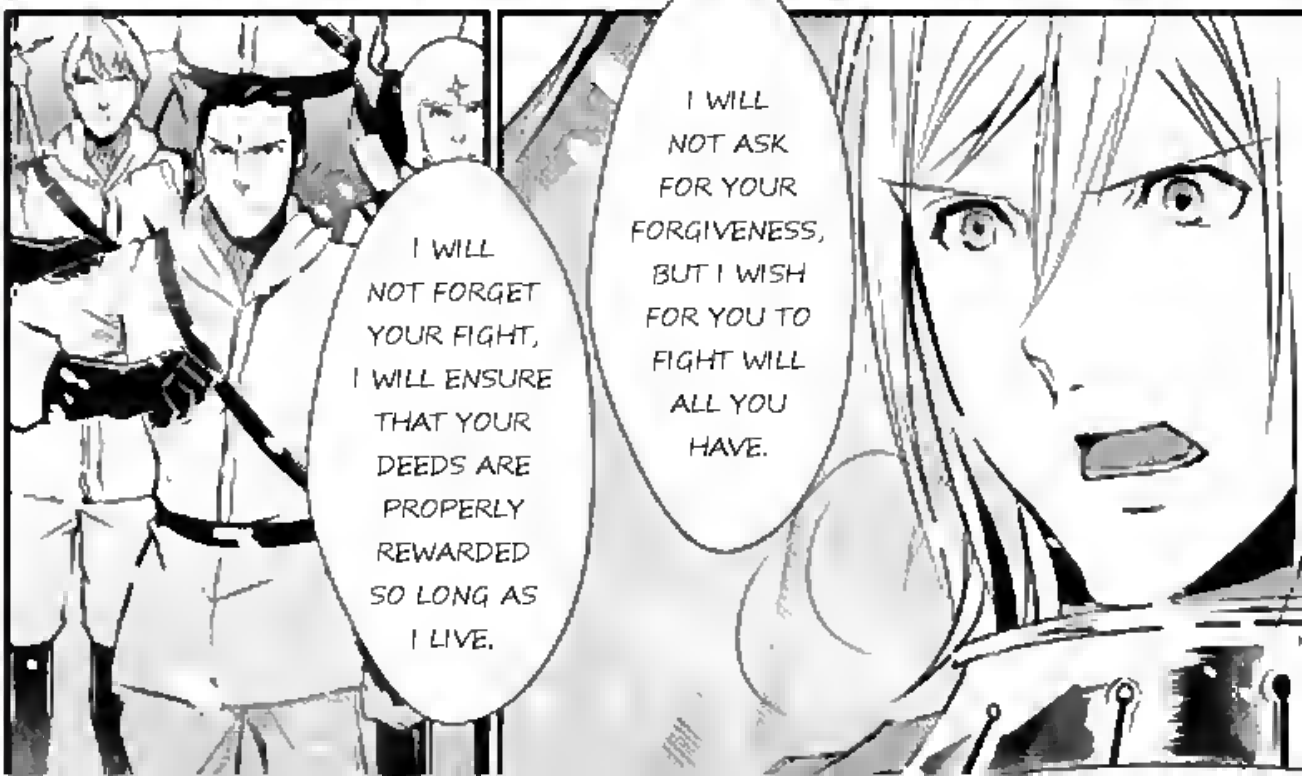

THERE'S A DIFFERENCE IN THE TRAINING OF OUR CONSCRIPTED SOLDIERS AND THE KINGDOM'S VOLUNTEER ARMY.
AND LECTIVAL'S VERY PRESENCE BOOSTS THE MORALE OF THEIR TROOPS.

IN THIS WAR, YOU EITHER DESTROY OR BE DESTROYED.

BE THEY IMPERIAL SOLDIERS OR THE KINGDOM'S, THE BATTLEFIELD TURNED THEM INTO CORPSES EQUALLY.
THUS THE EMPIRE, INTENT ON THEIR INVASION, AND THE KINGDOM, ITS VERY EXISTENCE ON THE LINE, CLASHED WITH EVERYTHING THEY HAD.


2 DAYS AFTER THE GURDOLDEN CORP DEPARTED, LECTIVAL WENT OUT TO INSPECT THE DEFENSIVE LINE.

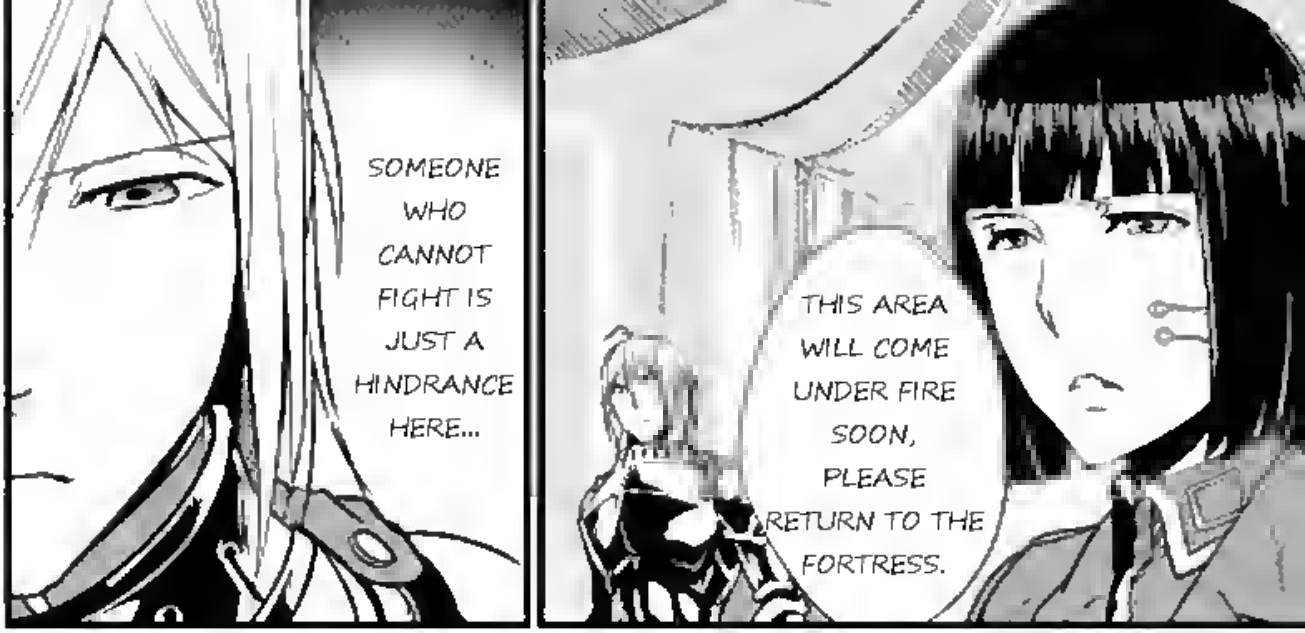
IF YOU RETREAT NOW, THOSE YOU WANT TO PROTECT WILL BE HARMED.
YOU ARE ALL CURRENTLY FIGHTING TO PROTECT OUR KINGDOM.
THE CASUALTIES ON BOTH SIDES HAD RISEN TO 5000 ON EITHER SIDE AND THE INJURED EXCEEDED THAT 3-FOLD.
LECTIVAL'S WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT FELT LIKE WORDS OFFERED TO A MAN ABOUT TO GO OFF TO DIE.
IF YOU FALL NOW, ALL THAT YOU LOVE WILL BE LOST.


I WILL NOT FORGET YOUR FIGHT, I WILL ENSURE THAT YOUR DEEDS ARE PROPERLY REWARDED SO LONG AS I LIVE.
I WILL NOT ASK FOR YOUR FORGIVENESS, BUT I WISH FOR YOU TO FIGHT WILL ALL YOU HAVE.

THE ENEMY!
WHO STANDS AHEAD OF YOU?
WHO STANDS NEXT TO YOU?
YOUR COM-RADES!
TAKE UP YOUR SWORDS AND READY YOUR SHIELDS!
BEHIND YOU ARE THE LIVES OF THE KINGDOM'S 50,000,000 PEOPLE.
YOUR HIGHNESS, IT'S TIME FOR THE NEXT SITE.
RIGHT.
REGARDLESS OF WHAT OTHERS CALLED HIM FOR IT.
HE USED WORDS TO MAKE PEOPLE KILL,

ENEMY COMPANY DETECTED IN AREA 44.
1ST LINE OF DEFENSE COMMAND CENTER
TELL LIEUTENANT COLONEL BELLGAIN TO STOP THEM IN COMBAT AREA 4 AT ALL COST!
ROGER.
IT'S FINE.
RESPOND!
HOW LARGE IS THE ENEMY UNIT?
BATTERY 109 IS UNDER ATTACK BY ENEMY AUTOMATA!

THE COLONEL IS A FEMALE BIODOLL SHE DISPLAYS NO EMOTIONS AND FOCUSES ON PROCESSING ALL THE INFORMATION SHE RECEIVES. SHE'S WELL SUITED TO THIS ROLE
THE TERRAIN FAVORS US, LURE THEM DEEPER IN.
AMBUSH THEM WITH A BOW UNIT.
COLONEL,
YOUR HIGH-NESS,
THERE'S A LARGE IMPERIAL UNIT BEHIND AREA 77!


SOMEONE WHO CANNOT FIGHT IS JUST A HINDRANCE HERE...
THIS AREA WILL COME UNDER FIRE SOON, PLEASE RETURN TO THE FORTRESS.

WE'RE HEADING BACK.
YES, SIR.

I'D LIKE TO ASK YOU SOMETHING.

.....
HOW LONG CAN YOU HOLD THIS ENCAMP-MENT?
I CAN GUARANTEE CONTROL FOR THE REST OF TODAY, BUT CANNOT PROMISE ANYTHING PAST THAT.
I SEE.
COLONEL.
THIS IS AREA 77. WE CAN'T HOLD OUT ANY LONGER!
ドドド!!

AND YOUR UNIT IS JUST AS GREAT.
YOU ARE A GREAT COMMANDER,
I WILL RELAY THAT TO THEM, I WISH YOU LUCK IN THIS WAR, YOUR HIGHNESS.
WHETHER THE FORTRESS WILL HOLD UNTIL THEN IS HARD TO SAY.
GALAHA WILL ARRIVE AT WILMAGS TOMORROW AFTERNOON,

HU!
HU!
HU!
TO THINK THERE WAS SUCH A CAVE IN THE MOUNTAINS.
ONLY WE ICE WOLVES KNOW OF IT.
ONCE WE'RE OUT, IT'LL JUST TAKE ANOTHER 2 HOURS TO REACH WILMAGS.
I NEVER EXPECTED I WOULD LEAD THE KINGDOM'S ARMY THROUGH HERE.
LIKEWISE, I NEVER EXPECTED WE WOULD BE GUIDED BY AN ICE WOLF.
I'D HEARD FROM MY PREDECESSOR ABOUT HOW OBSTINATE AND WHIMSICAL ICE WOLVES COULD BE,
BUT

I BELIEVE THAT THE KINGDOM EXISTS TODAY BECAUSE THE NORTH IS PROTECTED BY THE ICE WOLVES.

AND FROM WHAT I'D HEARD, YOUR NEW KING IS ALSO RATHER EXCEPTIONAL.

OH?
IT SEEMS THERE ARE SOME REASONABLE SOLDIERS IN YOUR KINGDOM.

INDEED, HE'S A RATHER

KIND AND DECISIVE KING WHO JUST ISN'T SUITED TO BEING HARSH.